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AGAIN... JUST LIKE CLOCKWORK... THE SAME DREAM... FOUR NIGHTS IN A ROW NOW!
THE ONE WHERE YOU'RE AN INCREDIBLY ANNOYING UNKILLABLE MERCENARY IN ONGOING DIALOGUE WITH THE SARCASTIC VOICES IN YOUR HEAD?
Quick! You need to wake up! Pinch yourself!
Wait -- Better yet --
Stab yourself in the head!
I'M MIXING IT UP WITH SOME DUDE I DON'T RECOGNIZE...
ALL MY SKILLS ARE SHARP... I FEEL LIGHT-WEIGHT AND FLUID... I MEAN, I'M TOTALLY IN THE ZONE, YOU KNOW?
BUT STILL, I HAVE THIS DREAD... FOR SOME REASON, I KNOW THIS IS THE ONE GUY I'LL NEVER BEAT!
THAT'S NO NIGHTMARE.
That's wishful thinking.
AND... NO MATTER HOW HARD I FIGHT... IN FOUR TRIES, NOW... ...I NEVER DO.
MY SUB-CONSCIOUS IS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING -- BUT WHAT?!
WHAT DOES THE DREAM SYMBOLIZE?!?
KRASH
MY GUESS? YOUR CRIPPLING ADDICTION TO YOO-HOO.
I think it symbolizes you're a tool.
WAIT!
DETAILS ARE SKETCHY... COMIN' TO ME IN FLASHES...
BUT... I REMEMBER...

"...SEEIN' THESE SIGNS EVERYWHERE WE WERE FIGHTIN'!
VERIDITAS CONSTRUCTION
"COULD IT BE AN ACTUAL PLACE?!"
AND SO...
WELL... IT'S IN THE YELLOW PAGES! YOU CAN'T GET MUCH REALER THAN THAT!
I'm confused. I thought you couldn't read anything in dreams.
I'M IMPRESSED HE CAN READ WHEN HE'S AWAKE.
YOO-HOO! MR. UNSTOPPABLE-DREAM-OPPONENT!
SAY 'ELLO TO MY LIDDLE FRIEN'!!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THEM APPLES?!
HEEEEEERE'S JOHNNY!!
OH, YEAH.
THAT'S SHOWING HIM.
HELLO? IS ANYONE THERE?
FINALLY! I'VE BEEN WANDERING 'ROUND THIS CURSED LABYRINTH FOR WHAT FEELS LIKE AGES--
GOT HIS ATTENTION, AT LEAST!
TIME TO BRING THE PAIN!!

HOW ABOUT I BURY IT IN YOUR CHEST?
THAT'S A KIND OF SHEATHING!
SKKKSSSHHH
WHAAAKKK
I THINK NOT.
IF THIS IS THE BEST YOUR EMPLOYERS CAN DO BY WAY OF OPPONENTS... THEY WASTED THEIR TIME ENTRAPPING ME IN THIS LABYRINTH IN THE FIRST PLACE!
EARTH TO NECKBEARD--- NOBODY EMPLOYED ME TO DO NOTHIN'!
BUT I TAKE ASPERSIONS CAST ON MY OVERALL LETHALITY REAL PERSONAL-LIKE --
CHOOOM
-- SO YOU I'LL SMOKE FOR FREE!
BAAM
BAAAM
RRAAAGGHH!!
HOW ABOUT... YOU JUST POINT ME TO THE EXIT...
...AND I DON'T POP YOUR HEAD OFF...
GAK! DO... YOUR WORST... GREEK BOY...
EVER HEAR... OF A HEALING FACTOR...?
YOU DON'T HAVE AN "IMMUNITY TO THE AGONIZING PAIN OF DECAPITATION" FACTOR!
I'd settle for a "mute factor."

SO JUST TELL HIM, ALREADY! WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
KWAHAHAHA
HAH! JOKE'S ON YOU, MUSCLES!
THE DOOR I CAME IN THROUGH IS RIGHT...
...OVER...
...HERE...
OH, LOOK. YOU'RE TOTALLY BONED. AGAIN.
You think Ms. Marvel has an opening for dueling narration captions?
AYE, THE OLD "DOOR DISAPPEARS INTO WALL" TRICK. IF I'VE SEEN IT ONCE, I'VE SEEN IT A MILLION TIMES IN MY IMMORTAL LIFE.
IT WOULD APPEAR WE ARE BOTH PRISONERS. THERE ARE SINISTER MAGICKS AFOOT.
YOU HAVE A DREAM ABOUT MEETING YOUR WORST ENEMY HERE, TOO?
"NAY, ASSASSIN. T'WAS MORE VISION THAN DREAM.
"I SUCCUMBED TO HER BEAUTEOUS CHARMS AT A NEARBY TAVERN. SHE WHISPERED IN MY EAR THAT FOR THE NIGHT, SHE WOULD BE MINE...
"...IF I MANAGED TO DEFEAT WHAT SHE CALLED AN 'IMPOSSIBLE OPPONENT.'"
"THE GIRL AND THE DOOR THROUGH WHICH WE ENTERED BOTH VANISHED ALMOST INSTANTLY.
"I SOON DISCOVERED THESE WALLS GO ON FOREVER..."

...AS INFINITE AS THE CORRIDORS THEMSELVES.
GOTTA SAY MAZES AIN'T REALLY MY GAME, BIG MAN!
I'M MORE OF A SUDOKU GUY!
HE CHEATS!
MY DEAR FRIEND AND COMRADE THESEUS, SON OF POSEIDON, ONCE NAVIGATED SUCH A LABYRINTH TO SLAY THE MINOTAUR OF CRETE.
OF COURSE, HE ONLY FOUND HIS WAY OUT AGAIN BECAUSE PRINCESS ARIADNE SMUGGLED HIM A SPINDLE OF THREAD WITH WHICH TO MARK HIS PATH.
SPINDLE?
THREAD?
OF COURSE!
IT'S BRILLIANT!
IS IT?

Of course not.
It's *Deadpool*.

SO MINOS'S QUEEN PASIPHAE VENTURED ONTO THE PASTURE *INSIDE* THE COW COSTUME.
THE CRETAN BULL WAS *COMPLETELY* FOOLED! THE BEAST GOT ON *TOP* OF HER, THEN —

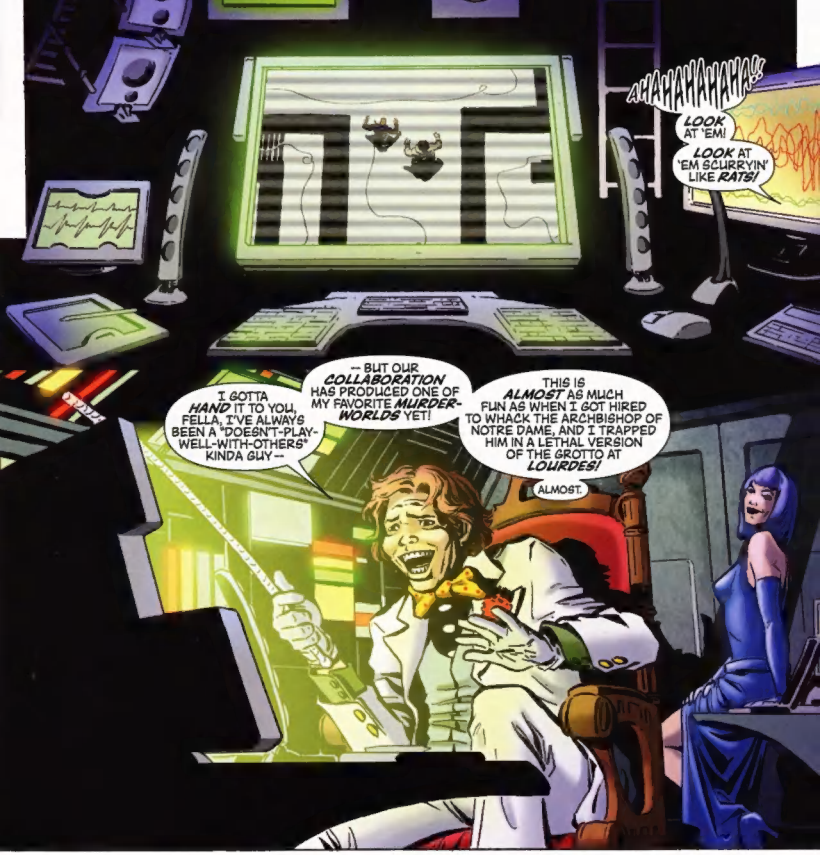
BLURG! *THAT'S* WHERE *MINOTAURS* COME FROM? GEEZ, YOU *ANCIENT GREEKS* REALLY KNEW HOW TO *PARTY!*
THAT STORY MAKES "2 GIRLS, 1 CUP" LOOK LIKE AN EPISODE OF *VEGGIE-TALES!*

AYE. GOOD TIMES. GOOD TIMES.

I, FOR ONE, DON'T REALLY *MISS* THE CLASSICAL WORLD. THOUGH. I'VE GROWN RATHER FOND OF *INDOOR PLUMBING*...
FRIEND *WILSON!* BY ZEUS! YOUR *LEG*...
SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE THAT LOOKED AT?

NAH... THAT'S JUST MY *CANCER!* WHOLE *BOD'S* RIDDLED WITH IT.
I VOLUNTEERED FOR THE *WEAPON X* PROGRAM LOOKIN' FOR A *CURE*. THE DOCS INOCULATED ME WITH SUPER-HEALING *DNA* FROM THAT STUCK-UP JERK-FACE *WOLVERINE*.
JOKE WAS ON *ME*, THOUGH! MY CANCER GOT THE HEALING FACTOR *TOO*, SO IT'S IN A CONSTANT *BATTLE* WITH MY REGULAR CELLS --
-- CAUSING ME TO LIVE ON AND ON AND ON IN NEVERENDING *AGONY!*
IS *THAT* WHY YOU LOST YOUR MARBLES AND WON'T STOP *TALKING* TO YOURSELF?
I DO *NOT!*
Do too!
SHUT UP! ALL *SIX* OF YOU!

WE HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN YOU SUSPECT, WADE WILSON.
I TOO HAD IMMORTALITY THRUST UPON ME IN A MOST AGONIZING WAY.
"A JEALOUS WIFE TRICKED ME INTO DONNING A GARMENT LACED WITH THE GALL OF THE HYDRA.
"I WAS PLUNGED INTO PAIN SO UNSPEAKABLE I COULD ONLY CURE IT BY HURLING MYSELF ONTO A FUNERAL PYRE.
"MY FATHER, ZEUS, KING OF HEAVEN, TOOK PITY ON ME, AND RAISED ME UP TO OLYMPUS TO BE A GOD..."
...AND I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PROVE MYSELF WORTHY OF HIS FAITH IN ME EVER SINCE...
ALL I GOTTA SAY IF YOU SEE ANY GRODY HALF-ROYAL FLOOZY/ HALF-ANGUS BEEF MUTANT LOVE BABIES ROUNDING THE CORNER...
...WARN ME, SO I GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO HURL...
WHAT THE...
SON OF A--


AHAHAHAHAHA!!
LOOK AT 'EM!
LOOK AT 'EM SCURRYIN' LIKE RATS!
I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, FELLA, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A "DOESN'T-PLAY-WELL-WITH-OTHERS" KINDA GUY--
-- BUT OUR COLLABORATION HAS PRODUCED ONE OF MY FAVORITE MURDER-WORLDS YET!
THIS IS ALMOST AS MUCH FUN AS WHEN I GOT HIRED TO WHACK THE ARCHBISHOP OF NOTRE DAME, AND I TRAPPED HIM IN A LETHAL VERSION OF THE GROTTO AT LOURDES!
ALMOST.

A
US TEAMIN' UP TO DIRTNAP OUR RESPECTIVE ENEMIES WAS GENIUS!
EVER SINCE THAT IDIOT DEADPOOL MADE HIS BIG COMEBACK THE ASSASSINATION CONTRACTS FOR POOR OL' ARCADE HAVE DRIED UP!

BUT THIS'LL ELIMINATE MY COMPETITION, AND O' COURSE, YOU... UH...
...REMIND ME WHY YOU HATE THE GUY WHO EXPECTS US TO BELIEVE HE'S HERCULES, AGAIN?
AND... AND... WHY CAN'T I EVER REMEMBER YOUR NAME?

Because it is only on the periphery of your consciousness that you are even aware of my existence, Arcade...
...I, Nightmare, Lord of the Dream Dimension.
Hercules and his "God Squad" humiliated me during their war with the Skrull gods.*
Were he any other foe, I would simply spirit him away to my realm while he slept and tormented him with his darkest fears and insecurities.
But the Lion of Olympus is...
...notoriously resistant to self-reflection...
SNIFF SNIFF
YOU SMELL SOMETHING?
And the unpredictability of Deadpool's insanity can never be fully accounted for in the engineering wizardry invested in your usual deathtraps, Arcade.
SNIFF SNIFF
NO.
So I have touched your mechanical genius with my sorcery of the sub-conscious to create this labyrinth.
Only by combining the left brain and right brain aspects of our powers shall we --
SSSSH! THEY DID IT! THEY REACHED THE CENTER!
I DON'T WANNA MISS A MOMENT OF THEM DYIN'!!!
*In Incredible Hercules #118. - Editor

ARE WE THERE YET?
ARE WE THERE YET?
ARE WE THERE YET?
MY SISTER ATHENA, THE GODDESS OF WISDOM, SAYS THE JOURNEY THROUGH SUCH MAZES IS SYMBOLIC OF ONE'S PASSAGE THROUGH LIFE ITSELF.
THE ROUTE IN IS YOUR PROGRESS TOWARD TRUE MEANING...
...FOUND HERE, IN THE LABYRINTH'S CENTER...
...AND YOUR ROUTE OUT IS QUITE DIFFERENT...
...FOR THE REVELATIONS DISCOVERED THEREIN RENDER YOU NO LONGER THE SAME MAN.
AWWWW... CRAP CAKES!
THAT'S THE SIGN FROM MY DREAM! THIS IS THE EXACT SAME ROOM!
THAT SHOULD MEAN...
YEAH.
RIGHT ON CUE.
YOU MIGHT WANNA AVERT YOUR EYES, HERCSTER. YOUR TITLE'S RATED A SISSY "T+".
WHILE I'M GONNA GO "PARENTAL ADVISORY" ALL OVER THIS MOTH--
SCHWING
TAKE CARE, WILSON! IN A LABYRINTH, FOES ARE AS SYMBOLIC AS THEY ARE --

WILSON!
HOLD FAST, I'LL...
'TIS YOU WHO SHOULD HOLD, FATHER
"FATHER?" WHO...
YOU DO NOT RECOGNIZE US
WE ARE NOT [illegible]
FOR YOU DID NOT ALLOW US TO REACH THIS AGE
WE, THE HERACLEIDAE
YOUR CHILDREN
SOME PUT TO THE SWORD BY YOUR FOE KING EURYSTHEUS UPON YOUR DEATH
OTHERS SLAIN BY YOUR HAND IN THE MADNESS OF BATTLE
WAIT -- LITTLE ONES -- STOP -- IT WILL NOT FIGHT YOU --
AND YOU CANNOT HARM ME --

THE INVULNERABILITY YOU GAINED FROM THE BREAST MILK OF [redacted] SHALL AVAIL YOU NAUGHT
SO LONG AS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF OUR HATRED GUIDES OUR AIM
UNNGGHH!
ONLY... ONLY A FLESH WOUND...
OOH! ORIGINAL!
I always thought we got the best lines.
WHA...?
CAN I JUST SAY HOW GREAT IT IS NOT TO BE STUCK INSIDE YOUR BODY ANYMORE?
The way you tap your left foot when you have to wait anywhere for more than ten seconds drives me absolutely crazy!
AND ONCE WE FINALLY GET RID OF YOU, WE WON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH YOUR B.S. EVER AGAIN.
And if you quote Monty Python one more time, we'll take days killing you.
YEAH, SERIOUSLY.

SO, YOU'RE ME? I'M FIGHTING MYSELF HERE?
HEY! LANGUAGE!
No call to get nasty!

CHOK
WE'RE MORE LIKE YOUR BETTER UNNHHH!!
Unnnhhh! better halves!

AS IN 50% + 50% = 100%?
We got a redundancy, as they say in the U.K.: You!
AU CONTRAIRE, LES DEUX MONOLOGUES!
YOU GOT THE SAME FIGHTING STYLE AS ME, WHICH MEANS I CAN ANTICIPATE EVERY ONE OF YOUR MOVES!

YEAH?
How's that working out for you?
SHRAKK
AAAAAAAAHHH!!!

GGGLLL...!
WE'RE YOUR MADNESS!
Your unpredictability!
THE STICK THAT STIRS YOUR DRINK!
The hologram on your trading card!
WE'RE YOUR EDGE, BUBBIE. WE'RE WHAT SEPARATES YOU FROM YOUR OPPONENTS.
WHAT MAKES YOU THE BEST AT WHAT YOU D--
Don't. Just don't.
WITHOUT US, YOU'RE JUST A VERY SKILLED --
-- but very killable mercenary!
MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP RIGHT NOW, WADE BUDDY.
NONE THROUGHOUT THE AGES HAVE DESERVED IMMORTALITY LESS THAN YOU, FATHER
YOUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD FALL DUE TO YOUR ACTION OR NEGLECT
BUT YOU JUST KEEP BLUNDERING THROUGH ETERNITY, ON AND ON AND ON
SO GIVE UP
'TIS TRUE...
MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP
'TIS ALL TRUE...

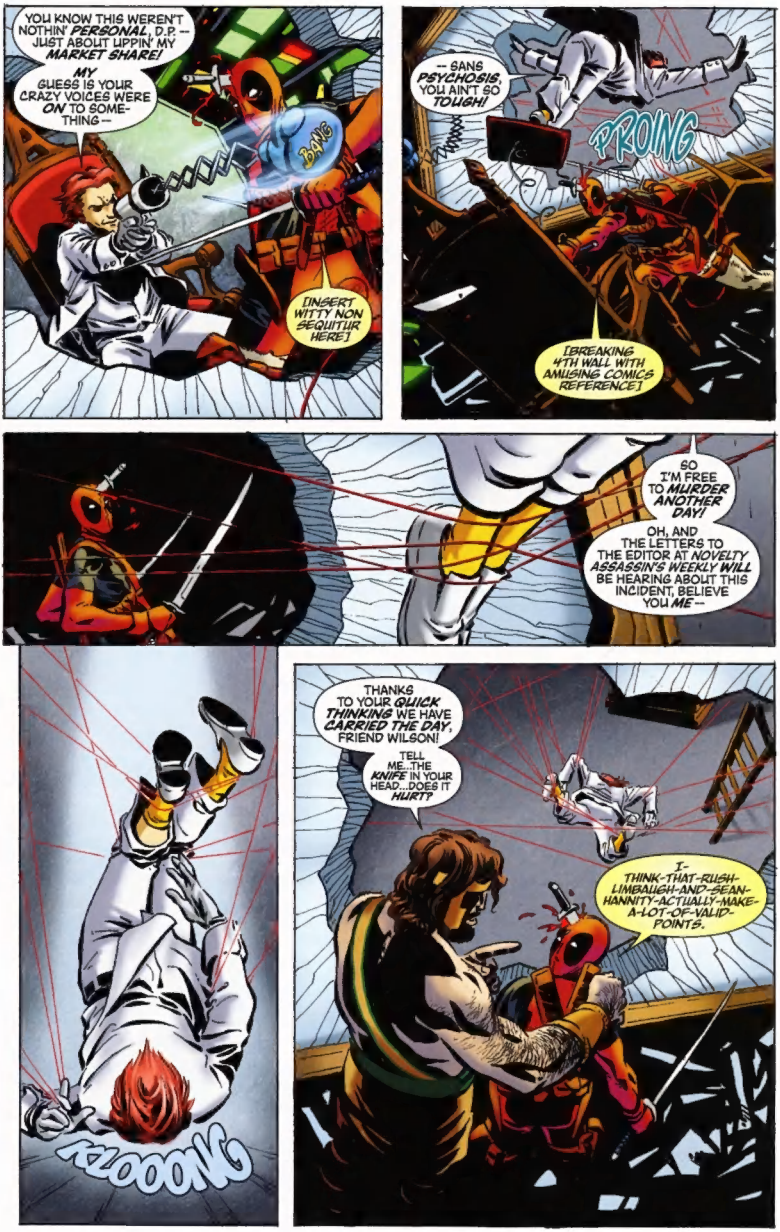
"No -- He's [illegible] himself -- Severed the connection between his left and right brains!
"My powers no longer *work* on him --
"-- so he will see *your* handiwork for what it truly is!"

STOP, WILSON! LEAVE MY POOR, INNOCENT BABES *BE!*
HERCULES.
HERCULES.
LET THEM DIE OF A *RIPE OLD AGE* AS *I* AM ABOUT TO --

YOUR-CHILDREN-ARE-NOT-HERE. WE-ARE-NOT-IN-A-LABYRINTH.
SHEET-ROCK-AND-ROBOTS-HAVE-BEEN-GIVEN-SYMBOLIC-WEIGHT-VIA-SUBTLE-MANIPULATION-OF-OUR-PREFRONTAL-CORTICES.

OUR-TRUE-ENEMIES-OBSERVE-US-FROM-BEHIND-THAT-WALL.
WHAT? EVEN IF THEY DO -- MY AGED BONES ARE TOO WEAK --
YOU-ARE-AS-VIGOROUS-AS-YOU-EVER-WERE.

BUT THE WALLS OF THIS MAZE ARE INFINITE --
PUNCH-THERE-AND-YOU-WILL-SEE-OTHERWISE.
CRASH
JAM
AH. YOU WERE RIGHT. MY BAD.
NIGHTMARE! WHAT ARE YOU --
Tch. The mercenary's madness is *too* mad even for *Insanity* itself.
Ah, well. My *patience* is as *endless* as my *realm*.
We will meet *again*, Prince of Power.
OW.
SKRZZZK
SO...
...HOW'S ABOUT THAT *DATE*? HEH!
SORRY. THAT SHIP'S SAILED.


YOU KNOW THIS WEREN'T NOTHIN' PERSONAL, D.P. -- JUST ABOUT LIPPIN' MY MARKET SHARE!
MY GUESS IS YOUR CRAZY VOICES WERE ON TO SOME-THING --
BANG
[INSERT WITTY NON SEQUITUR HERE]
-- SANS PSYCHOSIS, YOU AIN'T SO TOUGH!
PROING
[BREAKING 4TH WALL WITH AMUSING COMICS REFERENCE]
SO I'M FREE TO MURDER ANOTHER DAY!
OH, AND THE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AT NOVELTY ASSASSIN'S WEEKLY WILL BE HEARING ABOUT THIS INCIDENT, BELIEVE YOU ME --
KLOOONG
THANKS TO YOUR QUICK THINKING WE HAVE CARRIED THE DAY, FRIEND WILSON!
TELL ME...THE KNIFE IN YOUR HEAD...DOES IT HURT?
I-THINK-THAT-RUSH-LIMBAUGH-AND-SEAN-HANNITY-ACTUALLY-MAKE-A-LOT-OF-VALID-POINTS.

POP!
BY ZEUS, MAN!
SNAP OUT OF IT!!
OY!
YELLOW THINKING BOXES? COURIER-FONT THINKING BOXES?
ARE YOU BACK INSIDE ME, WHERE YOU BELONG?
YOU TELL ME, GENIUS.
Like we needed even more reason to hate you.
UGH! THAT WAS AWFUL...
...ALL MY THOUGHTS STRUNG TOGETHER SO DREADFULLY DULL AND PLODDING...LIKE SOME GLACIALLY MOVING FREIGHT TRAIN OF SUCK!
MY GOD...
THAT MUST BE WHAT IT'S LIKE...
...TO BE A TOTAL LOSER LIKE YOU!
THAT'S REALLY UNCALLED FOR.
I LEARNED THAT IT'S MY OWN FRAILTY THAT PROVES MY WORTH AS A GOD—THAT LIKE HUMANS THEMSELVES, I AM CONSTANTLY TRYING TO OVERCOME MY OWN FAILINGS!
WHILE I LEARNED ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!
A VICTORY OVER SO FORMIDABLE A FOE AS OURSELVES DEMANDS PROPER CELEBRATION!
AND I HAVE TO CELEBRATE MY THIRD ON-GOING! I'M GONNA SUCK EVERY LAST DIME OUTTA THIS INEXPLICABLE AND TOTALLY UNDESERVED POPULARITY UNTIL MY LIPS FALL OFF!!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
DON'T SWEAT IT! I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE WE SHOULD GO!

Greetings from
TIJUANA
Dear Amadeus,
Wish you were here!
XOXOXOXO
Herc & P.P.